



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of all Sizes

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SBA URGES RETURN YOUR SBA LOAN APPLICATION DON'T WAIT FOR INSURANCE SETTLEMENT-APPLY NOW

ALBANY, Ga. – If you're waiting to settle with your insurance company before you apply for disaster loan assistance, you could be making a very big and expensive mistake, according to Small Business Administration (SBA) Acting Disaster Area Director, Frank Skaggs.

"Don't wait to settle your insurance claim before turning in your completed SBA disaster loan application. We don't want anyone to miss the September 19, 2005 application deadline for physical damages," Skaggs said today.

SBA disaster loan staff is still available to answer any questions you might have, help you complete your application and accept your completed application. Our temporary office remains open in Worth County at the Sylvester Fire Department, 101 N. Westbury Street, in Sylvester with hours Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The office is open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., until further notice.

According to Skaggs, most homeowners, renters, and business owners will find they are not fully covered for their damages and will need additional funds to complete repairs. "But we can't help if you don't complete and turn in your SBA disaster loan application," said Skaggs.

For an individual with personal property and/or home losses, a completed application will also keep the door open to other types of assistance. Those who do not return a completed SBA application may be disqualifying themselves from other types of assistance, including possible grant assistance.

SBA is the primary source of long-term recovery assistance for homeowners, renters, non-farm businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations that received damage during the disaster. The 22 counties declared a disaster area by SBA as a result of damages sustained from Tropical Storm Dennis are: Bartow, Brooks, Carroll, Cherokee, Cobb, Colquitt, Cook, Crisp, Dawson, Dougherty, Douglas, Forsyth, Fulton, Gordon, Lee, Mitchell, Paulding, Pickens, Thomas, Tift, Turner and Worth.

Information on SBA loan applications is also available by calling the SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (for the hearing-impaired 1-800-877-8339) or visiting the SBA Website at www.SBA.gov/disaster. Completed applications can be taken to the Sylvester office or can be mailed to: Disaster Assistance Loan Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76155.

The deadline to return applications for physical damage is September 19, 2005; the deadline to return economic injury applications is April 19, 2006.

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster

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